THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) No, Sir, (b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Although milk producers are poor, however, to safeguard the interest of domestic producers the following steps have already been taken by the Government in this regard;

(i) Custom duty on import of milk powder has been increased from 0% to 60% with an annual Tariff Rate Quota of 10,000 MT on a global basis at 15% duty.

(ii) Import of livestock products including milk products are allowed against sanitary permit.

(iii) Import of all food items including milk products are subject to compliance of the quality conditions as per Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

The Government of India has launched the following programmes for increasing milk production in the country;

i. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

ii. Central Cattle Breeding Farms.

iii. Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute.

iv. Central Herd Registration Scheme.

v. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

Pisciculture schemes in Bihar

2062. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start pisciculture schemes in various water logged areas and the rivers in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) and (b) A new pilot scheme on Development of Waterlogged Areas into Aquaculture Estates has been started in 2001-2002 with 100% central assistance. An amount of Rs. 29.90 lakh has been released to Government of Bihar during this year under the scheme. No central or state sector scheme is implemented for pisciculture in the rivers in Bihar.

(c) Pisciculture in flowing waters of rivers in not an established practice.

Suicide by Farmers

†2063. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1390, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tendency of committing suicide by farmers is on the increase all over the country due to non-payment of loans as a result of crop losses due to damage of crops and not getting appropriate price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of farmers who committed suicide so far;

(d) the measures being taken by Government to check this trend in future; and

(e) whether Government would provide concession to farmers in the rate of interest on loans and special assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka informed, in November, 2001, 54 cases of suicide by farmers. For 2001-02, no other State has reported suicide by farmers.

(d) Necessary measures are required to be taken by the concerned State Governments in this regard.

(e) As credit is a crucial input for increasing agicultural production and productivity, a multi-agency network consisting of Commercial Banks,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.